MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

5 JANUARY 1982

Sudan

SUNA reported that school students protesting the cancellation of sugar subsidies started a huge fire that destroyed 120 shops in Khartoum's local market. In a statement carried by SUNA, the Education and Guidance Ministry announced that as a result of the demonstrations, all elementary, secondary and intermediate schools in Khartoum district are closed until further notice. INA, which reported the disturbances before SUNA, said eyewitnesses had seen violent clashes between demonstrators and policemen supported by military units and also reported intensive activity by ambulances, indicating casualties.

Egypt

Cabinet Meeting -- MENA reported that the new Cabinet held its first meeting under the chairmanship of President Husni Mubarak. Afterward, Information Minister Safwat ash-Sharif noted that Mubarak had briefed the ministers on the principles of work to be followed, stressing the need for honesty and discipline and calling for candor with the public and avoidance of propaganda. Mubarak said the government should focus attention on the achievement of political, economic and social stability, giving special consideration to economic issues, Ash-Sharif added. The information minister also reported that Prime Minister Ahmad Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din had said the government welcomes hearing opinions it does not agree with in order to benefit from them. According to MENA, Muhyi ad-Din said after the meeting that the change in economic ministers will not affect Egypt's open-door economic policy, but that production needs should take priority over luxury goods.

'Abd al-Majid Under Scrutiny -- Citing AL-AHRAM, MENA reported that the public prosecutor is to study the affairs of former Deputy Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Razzaq 'Abd al-Majid and two other former officials in connection with the Rashad 'Uthman corruption case.

As-Sadat Trial Lawyers -- According to AFP, the lawyers acting for 24 defendants charged with involvement in the assassination of President Anwar as-Sadat have decided to resume the defense of their clients.

Mubarak-Percy Meeting -- MENA reported that President Mubarak met with U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Charles Percy.

Libya

Reported Assassination Attempt -- Athens Armed Forces radio reported that the Libyan Embassy in Athens had described as "inaccurate" press reports about an attempt to assassinate Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Assassination Squad Comment -- According to Tripoli radio, FBI Director William Webster's recent statement that the FBI has unable to confirm that a Libyan assassination squad had been sent to the United States to kill President Ronald Reagan proves that U.S. administration allegations against Libya are false and testify to President Reagan's "foolishness" and "superficial mentality."

Al-'Ubaydi Foreign Policy Speech -- In a speech to the General People's Congress, broadcast by Tripoli radio, 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, secretary of the Popular Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, said Libya had been forced to reconsider its policy of nonalignment because of the "organized, continuous campaign" waged against it ever since the Reagan administration took office. He cited as examples U.S. accusations against Libya that "have no foundation in truth," alleged U.S. plots to assassinate Al-Qadhdhafi and the U.S.-Libyan confrontation in the Gulf of Sidra. Asserting that Libya does not seek war or join axes, Al-'Ubaydi said it will remain neutral as long as it is not subjected to U.S. pressures, challenges or provocations. Otherwise, he added, Libya will have no alternative but to ally with the "enemy of our enemy." He concluded by appealing to the United Nations, the nonaligned group and the European nations to put an end to U.S. "aggression and arrogance" in order to help protect Libyan neutrality and nonalignment.

Golan Heights

Citing Druze residents of Syria, IDF radio reported that PDRY troops have recently been deployed alongside Syrian forces in the Golan Heights area. However, Gen Emanuel Erskine, chief of staff of the UN observers in the Middle East, said in a statement broadcast by IDF radio that UN observers have not noticed any changes or movement of forces on the Syrian side of the Israeli-Syrian border.

Iraq-PDRY

Citing an Iraqi Foreign Ministry statement, INA announced that Iraq and the PDRY have agreed to exchange ambassadors in a move to improve bilateral relations. The ambassadors were withdrawn in June 1979 after an incident in which PDRY forces allegedly stormed the Iraqi Embassy in Aden while searching for the assassins of an Iraqi professor teaching there. The Iraqis responded by detaining PDRY Embassy staff in Baghdad.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Reaction to Iraqi Call -- Commenting on Iraq's call to Arab nations to sever relations with Iran on the grounds that Iranian embassies have become centers of terrorism, the Iranian deputy foreign minister said in a statement broadcast by Tehran radio that the objective was to isolate and put pressure on Iran because of its victories over Iraq. Such "conspiracies," he continued, are actually planned by agents of U.S. imperialism and provide the pretext for increasing the presence of the United States and its mercenaries in the region.

Military situation -- according to an Iranian Joint Staff communique, broadcast by Tehran radio, Iranian forces killed or wounded 1,000 Iraqis during operations in the Nowsud area. An Iraqi Armed Forces communique, carried by INA, mentioned clashes in the Sumar area and claimed that Iraqi ground fire downed two Iranian fighters on the southern front.

FBIS DAILY REPORT CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 002 5 January 1982

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

Karmal Speech at 2 Jan Kabul Party Ceremony C 1
Keshtmand Addresses Land Reform Seminar C 2
NEW TIMES Editorial on 17th PDPA Anniversary C 4
BAKHTAR: Pakistani Officials Siphoning Off Aid C 5
Briefs: Afghan-Soviet Power Agreement C 5

INDIA

Gandhi Remarks on Kerala, Assam, Castes E 1
Gandhi: Opposition Trying To Weaken Country E 1
Change in Uttar Pradesh Leadership Ruled Out E 2
U.S., USSR Increase Activities in East Region E 2
[ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA 27 Dec]
AFP on USSR Pressure To Reject Pakistan Pact E 3
STATESMAN on Response to Pakistan's No-War Offer [23 Dec] E 3
Vice President Calls for Asian Common Market [AFP] E 4
Oil Production Increased 55 Percent in 1981 E 4

PAKISTAN

Haq Addresses Pakistani Ambassadors Conference F 1
UAE President Al Nuhayyan Arrives 2 Jan F 1

IRAN

Tehran Reports on Jordanian Pledges to Bahrain I 1
Bahraini Front Cables Amnesty International I 1
Iraqi Appeal to Arab Countries Attacked I 1
Iraqi Mujahidin Blast Army Headquarters I 2
Iraqi Mujahidin Blow Up Pipeline, Tanker I 2
Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique 750 I 3
Iranian Forces Clash With Kurdish Rebels I 3
Kurdish Group Leader, Members Killed I 4
Guards Kill, Arrest 'Hypocrites' in Tehran I 4
Ardabili Denies Bahai Sect Leaders Executed [AFP] I 4
VOA Report on Communist Influence Rebutted I 5
NVOI Scores Iranian Policy Toward Afghanistan I 5
Soviet Munitions Dump in Kabul Blown Up I 6
Soviet MiG's, Helicopters Bomb Afghan Village I 7
Raid on Qandahar I 7
Afghan Rebels Reportedly Kill Soviet Troops I 7
Tehran Warns Afghans Against Imperialism I 7
Briefs: Wheat Supplies; Meat Imports I 8

KARMAL SPEECH AT 2 JAN KABUL PARTY CEREMONY

LD041120 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0431 GMT 4 Jan 82

["Text" of speech delivered by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the Revolutionary Council, at a ceremony in Kabul marking the commencement of the distribution of party membership cards on 2 January]

[Text] Kabul, 3 Jan (BAKHTAR) -- Esteemed members of Politburo, honourable members and alternate members of the Central Committee:

First of all, I would like to express my sincere and heartfelt thanks to the Politburo for the honour accorded to me and for granting to me the membership card No 1 of our beloved party of heroes and martyrs. This gives us a new force and greater strength in the struggle for the cause of the further development of the April Revolution, the consolidation of the party and the total elimination of counter-revolutionary forces.

Today is indeed one of the most glorious, happiest and most unforgettable days of my life. I have always seen and see the aim of my life in serving the party and the people and I will never be away from this aim even for a moment. Receiving the party card, I would like to assure the Central Committee and its Politburo, to all full-fledged and probationary members of the PDPA that after this also I will devote all my power and energy to the fulfillment of the great tasks of the party, the construction of a society based on social justice, progress and blossoming of Afghanistan.

Dear comrades, the commencement of the distribution of membership cards in the PDPA coincides with the seventeenth anniversary of the founding of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan. We are celebrating this anniversary under abnormal conditions. The black forces of imperialism and international and regional reaction continue their undeclared war against us by sending professional murderers and bandits to our country. Thus, they want to turn the wheel of history. But they will take this desire to their grave. The people of Afghanistan even more clearly know that these so-called "fighters for the cause of faith" in practice have sinister, ignominious and dirty goals.

Therefore, the farmers, workers, intellectuals and youth are ever-increasingly joining the ranks of the defenders of the revolution and defending the gains of revolution, with arms in their hand. An ever-larger number of individuals are coming to believe that the policy of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan is a real exponent of the interests of the people.

An ever-greater number of our noble and illustrious citizens link their destiny with the PDPA so as to struggle in its ranks for the cause of a glittering and blossoming future, for the prosperity of the people and the creation of a powerful Afghanistan.

It is not fortuitous that the number of our party members has become doubled in less than one and a half years, and a considerable number of new party members are from workers and peasants. This testifies to the fact that the credibility of the PDPA has increased and we should strengthen the ties of the party with the people in future, too.

The distribution of party membership cards, a model for the year 1360 [21 March 1981-20 March 1982], which is beginning today is considered as an important event in the history of our party. This great political event is an indicator of the growing strength of the PDPA and consolidation of its organization.

This is itself should assist in bringing about more unity and integrity in the party ranks, in raising the responsibility of every full and probationary member of the party, the consolidation of discipline, and in observing and the stricter implementation of the provisions of the constitution of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan. The registration procedure of party members will also be improved.

Once again I recall those years when our beloved party was founded. During that time under secret conditions and under the surveillance of the reactionary regimes we could only hope for the distribution of party membership cards. The new phase of the April Revolution provide us the opportunity for the realization of this desire and aspiration, and for putting them into effect. We are fully confident that all those who have the honor, dignity, esteem and worthiness during all their life and will uphold the (?great) prestige of being a member of the PDPA.

The full and probationary members of the PDPA will be receiving the full and probationary membership cards on the basis of their just and objective conduct and comprehensive evaluation of their activity and their participation in the party organizations.

The Central Committee of the PDPA categorically points out that no violation of the principles, standards and constitution and no incorrect actions should be permitted in this work. In one word the distribution of party cards is not a technical affair but is a summing up of all measures and steps towards the further organizational consolidation of the party ranks. Today we should explicitly talk about it so that all organizations and the party committees should perceive more clearly the duties facing them.

Honourable comrades, dear comrades-in-arm of revolutionary struggle:

Today you are the first persons who receive our prideful party's membership cards. Certainly you are entitled to this great honour. This is a recognition of your services towards the PDPA, of your active participation in the creation, shaping up and perfection of the party and the great work that every one of you is accomplishing right now in the leadership of the party and the state.

I wholeheartedly congratulate you on this glorious event and firmly believe that you will add manifold to your services and your activities in the interest of the PDPA, the state and the people.

I fulfil this prideful duty which is delegated to me by the Politburo of the PDPA with unbounded happiness and pleasure with full responsibility.

Permit me to present you with the party membership cards.

KESHTMAND ADDRESSES LAND REFORM SEMINAR

LD312258 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 31 Dec 81

[Text] A seminar of officials and employees of the Ministries of Agriculture and Land Reform and Water and Power on the results of the implementation of the 1981 plan began at 1000 today at the Council of Ministers with the participation of Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Council of Ministers, and vice chairmen of the Council of Ministers.

The session began with the playing of the DRA national anthem. Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand then made a speech, saying:

[Begin recording] Comrades and dear friends: A seminar to assess the progress of industry and power energy in the current year in the country was convened yesterday in this hall. The seminar ended successfully, with good results.

Today we convene a seminar on another important subject, to assess the activities and the results of work of the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform, and the Irrigation Department of the Ministry of Water and Power. in the past months of 1981 and to make forecasts for the coming months.

Experience has shown that if such sessions are held in accordance with specified objectives and prearranged [words indistinct] and the issues and discussed collectively and freely with the spirit of readiness for improvement and accomplishment of worthwhile social tasks they result in fruitful conclusions.

The DRA Council of Ministers, in following the policy of the PDPA, will assess and regard as the most important of its socioeconomic duties increased agricultural production, implementation of the just and democratic land reforms, the implementation of profound transformation of agricultural relations in the villages, the provision of essential assistance for the toiling peasants and consolidation of the unity of the working class and peasants.

The implementation of just and democratic land reform and the solution of the problem of land and water in the interest of the toiling peasants of the country are the most important socioeconomic duties of the party and our revolutionary government at the present stage; perceiving the need and importance of this issue, Comrade Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, has personally undertaken its leadership.

The successful accomplishment of the processes of just and democratic land reform is not a task merely alloted to personnel of the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform but one which seriously requires the constant attention of the party and social organization, local organs of the state administration in the provinces and regions and the active participation of toiling peasants themselves.

As Comrade Babrak Karmal has repeatedly emphasized, the PDPA as a whole, and especially organizations and their activists in the provinces, districts, subdistricts and villages, must take an active and constructive part in the task of the implementation of land reform. This entails easing the heavy burden of responsibility alloted to the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform as to enhance a sense of responsibility and to generate activities and useful work on this important and vital issue.

In the current year our agricultural production is relatively satisfactory and [words indistinct] are available in total agricultural production.

If international imperialism, led by U.S. imperialism, Chinese hegemonism and the reactionary regimes of some of the countries of the region, and especially the militarist regime of Pakistan, had ended their undeclared war against revolutionary Afghanistan and had not sent to our country traitorous hands comprising former exploiters and robbers, plunderers and murderers of subversion and (?plundering) of the bread and life of our toiling people, better results would undoubtedly have been achieved in industrial improvement and agricultural output. However, all this treachery of the enemies of the people of Afghanistan is doomed to resolute defeat. They cannot turn back the wheel of the history and again install in our country the decadent past regime.

Our democratic and revolutionary authorities enjoy the support of all toiling people of Afghanistan and the support and assistance of the USSR, the great friend and supporter of our people and all progressive forces of the world.

We have a duty to make the work and activities of the government machinery stronger and more effective against the subversive and hostile actions of the enemies of our revolution and to further enhance [words indistinct] patriotic conscience in all party and government (?personnel).

The convocation of the present seminar is an effort in this direction and we are confident that it will produce useful results as a motive for the enhancement of government [word indistinct], inspection and accountability of work. [end recording]

NEW TIMES EDITORIAL ON 17TH PDPA ANNIVERSARY

LD030608 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0423 GMT 3 Jan 82

[Text] Kabul, 2 Jan (BAKHTAR) -- Kabul NEW TIMES carries in its issue of Dec 31 an editorial captioned "17th Founding Anniversary of PDPA." The editorial reads in part:

The People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, the party of the working class and all toiling people of Afghanistan, marks its 17th founding anniversary at a time when, under its wise leadership, the national and democratic and anti-imperialist and anti-feudal Sawr Revolution and its new phase have triumphed and, as a result of persistent and creative struggle, the gains of the revolution have been consolidated, deepened and unprecedentedly expanded.

In the long political history of our country, the establishment of the PDPA is a great event which resulted in the salvation of the most oppressed and revolutionary classes, that is, the working class and all the toiling people of the country.

The over-all activity of the PDPA, led by the scientific working class ideology, reveals the revolutionary (?unity) and creative revolutionary action behind it. It was on this basis that our party was able to lead to victory the national and democratic revolution and its new and revolutionary phase and defend the gains of the revolution, the sovereignty, the national independence and territorial integrity of our country against the plots and conspiracies of the counter-revolution and international imperialism and emerge triumphantly from the difficult and great historical tests of the time.

The PDPA, both before and after the victory of the Sawr Revolution, as a new-type party, has meritoriously played its role as the vanguard in mobilising the working class and all toiling people towards the victory of the revolution and consolidation of the political sovereignty of the toilers -- and the victory of the new phase, which was the phase of salvation of the revolution, the people and the homeland, consolidation of the gains of the revolution and the militant struggle against imperialism, hegemonism, regional and Arab reaction.

The 17-year-old history of the PDPA has been a history of persistent struggle towards defending the principle of ensuring the unity and cohesion of our party. It was this principled struggle of the PDPA that forged its unbreakable ties with the masses and led them towards realisation of aspirations for social progress.

The major gains for our people of the brave and persistent struggle of the PDPA has been the victory of the glorious Sawr Revolution and its new phase. With this victory, our people have opted for building a new society void of any exploitation and a new era has been ushered in for Afghanistan.

Under the present conditions, when the international imperialism, led by the world-devouring U.S. imperialism, Chinese hegemonism, regional and Arab reaction have unleashed an undeclared war against our freedom, national sovereignty and territorial integrity, the PDPA -- by further strengthening its iron-like and unshakeable unity and that of the toilers under the PDPA -- is foiling all plots and conspiracies of the enemies of our revolution, and consolidating the gains of the revolution.

It is a matter of pride that the PDPA and the toiling and patriotic masses of our country, with their iron will, are unitedly forging ahead in this great humane struggle in the frontline of struggle together with the camp of peace and social progress, against imperialism and reaction and towards building a new society which would guarantee the prosperity of the toiling man.

The toiling masses of Afghanistan have learnt by experience that the PDPA embodies their true interests and that it is the true protector of the interests of toiling masses. The PDPA now enjoys a growing confidence among our people and progressive and patriotic elements.

BAKHTAR: PAKISTANI OFFICIALS SIPHONING OFF AID

LD041026 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0420 GMT 4 Jan 82

[Text] Kabul, 3 Jan (BAKHTAR) -- The ringleaders of the anti-Afghan Government escapees and their Pakistani patrons devour greedily the biggest chop of the foreign aid collected to help meet the needs of the escapees, especially those of women, old men and children, says a report in the TRUTH OF SOLDIER newspaper. The report adds that only one sixth of the aid goes to the deceived escapees while the rest is poured into the pockets of Pakistani party and state figures, police officers and administrators.

Some time ago, says the report, the aided goods such as clothes, foodstuff and medicines, instead of being given to the escapees, were sold freely in the markets in Islamabad and Rawalpindi, and distribution of goods as gifts among the responsible officials of local administration has become common practice.

The report discloses that with the silent consent of Pakistan's military rulers, the leaders of these groupings, such as (Sebghatullah Mujaddedi), Seyyed Ahmad Gailani, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, Burhanuddin Rabbani, (Mohammad Nabi) and few others, who are engaged in such dirty acts, despite their strong political and personal differences, speak in the [word indistinct] language while distributing the goods and gifts and the money which should have been used to save the deceived persons from the rotten life they are living.

These pseudoleaders of the escapees are doing big businesses with the money they have plundered. They purchase big hotels, shops and cars in Pakistan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia as well as in the industrial countries in the West and under various names, pretexts and tricks are engaged in the drug trafficking and smuggling. For example, with the active cooperation and participation of Ziaul Haq, the military ruler of Islamabad, more than one hundred Mercedes Benzes have been purchased, each costing about one hundred thousand Pakistani rupees while in Pakistan's local markets each of these cars is sold at 300,000 Pakistani rupees, discloses the report.

The report adds that after such illegal motor sales (Sebghatullah Mujaddedi) has put dollars 250,000 in the Arab bank of Zurich, Seyyed Ahmad Gailani, dollars 310,000 in American Express Bank of Geneva and Gulbuddin Hekmatyar has dollar 400,000 in the American Express Bank in Brazil.

Apart from these, they have not failed to take care of their business in smuggled goods, lapis lazuli, golden items and other precious stones that they have robbed from Afghanistan.

BRIEFS

AFGHAN-SOVIET POWER AGREEMENT -- A contract for the construction of the first stage of the power transmission project from the Soviet border to Kholm and Mazar-e Sharif was signed this morning in the Ministry of Water and Power. The contract was signed by Raz Mohammad Paktin, minister of water and power, and (Chegonov) economic advisor to the Soviet Embassy in Kabul. Relevant documents were exchanged. Under the contract, the construction of the first stage of the project will begin on 21 March with the expenditure of $6 million from the Soviet Union in credits and 28-30 million afghanis from the government state budget by the Construction Department of the Ministry of Water and Power. A spokesman for the Ministry of Water and Power said that these figures include the supply of equipment and tools for the (?line) and the expenses of the friendly country's experts, the USSR. The spokesman added the total cost of the 220,000-volt energy transmission project, to be undertaken by the Soviet Union in three stages, is over $200 million. The spokesman added that this contract was signed based on the previous agreement between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union concerning the transmission line of energy at a 220-kw voltage from the USSR, the work of which will be completed by 1987. [Text] [Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Jan 82 LD]

GANDHI REMARKS ON KERALA, ASSAM, CASTES

BK021300 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 2 Jan 82

[Text] The prime minister has denied that the Kerala governor was pressurized in the formation of the state ministry. Mrs Gandhi was addressing newsmen at Raj Bhavan in Trivandrum this afternoon before her departure for Cochin. She said the center had not pressurized anybody in this regard.

About the question of majority, Mrs Gandhi said it is for the legislature to decide.

When a correspondent asked why such an opportunity is not given to the opposition in Assam, the prime minister replied that the Assam situation is entirely different and the situation still unstable there.

The prime minister, who had discussions with the state government on plan activities, expressed deep concern at the economic situation in the state. Referring to the former Nayanar government, Mrs Gandhi said that some of its programs were implemented without any regard to the future. She criticized that ongoing projects were neglected and this had resulted in cost escalation.

Addressing later a scheduled castes and scheduled tribes convention in Cochin, the prime minister said the government was doing everything possible to remove the poverty of the weaker section. She said without a stable government the task of protecting any single community is not possible.

GANDHI: OPPOSITION TRYING TO WEAKEN COUNTRY

BK030857 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 3 Jan 82

[Text] The prime minister has charged the opposition parties with helping some foreign forces which are trying to weaken the country. Addressing a huge public meeting in Cochin last evening, she said it is for the people to see for themselves who in the international sphere wanted to weaken the country.

Mrs Gandhi said that the opposition parties are now talking of coming together again only for gaining power. There is no agreement or even a mention of the policies or programs they will follow. She expressed surprise that the Communist Party of India-Marxist is deviating from the socialist path by supporting these parties which adopt any means to weaken the center.

Referring to the Marxist criticism of the IMF loan, Mrs Gandhi pointed out that several communist countries are getting similar loans, or are trying to get them. The prime minister blamed the Marxists for neglecting the plan programs in Kerala. No plan can be implemented by destroying the infrastructure of the economy as was done in Kerala, she added. The new government in the state may have to do much to bring back stability in administration and restore confidence among the people.

In reference to the economic situation, she admitted that it is not yet satisfactory. However, the government has been able to bring down the rate of inflation and increase production both in industrial and agricultural sectors. The availability of coal, power and cement has been improved. Mrs Gandhi stressed the need to work more vigorously for the uplift of the backward sections.

The prime minister will inaugurate the 69th annual session of the Indian science congress in Mysore today. Mrs Gandhi will also give away awards to 20 young scientists for their outstanding achievements.

CHANGE IN UTTAR PRADESH LEADERSHIP RULED OUT

BK300823 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Dec 81

[Excerpts] The prime minister has ruled out any change in the leadership of the Uttar Pradesh Congress-I legislature party. Mrs Gandhi was speaking to newsmen at (Amalsi) Airport in Lucknow last night on her arrival from Calcutta on a day's visit to the state. She expressed satisfaction over the law and order situation in Uttar Pradesh.

In reply to a question, the prime minister denied that the newly formed government in Kerala is a minority one. She said the former Communist Party of India-Marxist-led government in the state was discredited because of political murders, mostly of those belonging to opposition parties.

Mrs Gandhi said that most nations in the world are feeling the threat of a world war. Our efforts are to see that war is prevented.

About a no-war pact with Pakistan, she said India believes in peace and does not want war with any country. But the massive acquisition of arms by Pakistan has endangered India's security.

U.S., USSR INCREASE ACTIVITIES IN EAST REGION

BK031550 Calcutta ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA in Bengali 27 Dec 81 p 1

[By the political reporter]

[Text] The central authorities are concerned with the considerable increase in activities by both the United States and Russia in eastern India recently. Efforts are being made by various means to collect information on the reason for this spurt of activity. The central authorities are also amazed to see that frantic efforts are being made by both the superpowers to increase their intimacy with the Communist Party of India-Marxist [CPI-M] and some of its prominent leaders. Attempts are even being made to draw closer to their relatives to achieve this end. Recently, an American envoy, together with a prominent CPI-M leader, visited the latter's village. The village is more than 100 km from Calcutta.

The recent arrival of Russians in Calcutta and the length of their stay has considerably increased. Many of them stay in Calcutta for 3 or 4 months at a stretch. They are not even registering their names with the local authorities (security control) according to regulations. Repeated notices to the Soviet Embassy by central authorities on this subject have yielded no results. Recently, Russian arrivals have increased even further.

In addition to this, the central authorities are a bit surprised to see that Russia has increased the number of purchasing agents of jute, tea and so forth in eastern India. It is well known that Russia distributes funds to the political parties of this region through these agents. The central authorities are wondering if the Russians have increased the number of these agents in order to distribute more money in eastern India. They have noted in particular that one of these agents tried to come into close association with a very prominent CPI-M leader immediately after the formation of the left front government.

A number of Russians are staying in Tripura where they are engaged in oil exploration. The central authorities have noted that some of them occasionally "go on a round" of other states outside Tripura.

Visits by Americans to eastern India have practically stopped. But the central authorities note that leaders of various secessionist groups in eastern India, by diverse means through various persons, are maintaining contact with the Americans. The U.S. Consulate in Calcutta is "too well" informed about the Assam movement.

The new employees at the U.S. Consulate have also become very active. Some time ago, it was noted that certain employees of the U.S. Consulate were trying to establish relations with some of the relatives of several Anglo-Indian typists at Fort Williams. Now they are trying to make contact with some Indians who have regular access to Fort Williams.

In addition to this, the central authorities are also concerned by the attempts of some American officers to increase their intimacy with various Indians connected with nuclear research.

The Russians used to keep close contact with some of the Congress and All-Communist Party of India leaders. After the formation of the left front government in West Bengal, they have tried to draw closer to some of the CPI-M leaders. This effort has recently been intensified. The Americans have always maintained a contact with some of the Congress, Janata and CPI-M leaders. But their current effort to develop a close association with some of the prominent CPI-M leaders is something new.

AFP ON USSR PRESSURE TO REJECT PAKISTAN PACT

BK021319 Hong Kong AFP in English 0656 GMT 2 Jan 82

[Text] New Delhi, 2 Jan (AFP) -- A prominent opposition member of Parliament has charged that the Soviet Union was using "considerable pressure" on India not to sign a no-war pact with Pakistan, it was reported today.

Subramanian Swamy, leader of the opposition Janata Party, told the press in Bombay that the Soviet argument was that a pact with Pakistan would be incompatible with the Indo-Soviet friendship treaty.

Dr Swamy said, according to the daily "TIMES OF INDIA," that he was making the allegation on the basis of his talks with "authoritative sources" in the Indian Foreign Ministry.

Dr Swamy, who is known for his pro-China and pro-Pakistan views, also stated that the Soviets had suggested "aggressive action" against Pakistan during the Janata government (1977-80) and a no-war pact would close this option for Moscow.

STATESMAN ON RESPONSE TO PAKISTAN'S NO-WAR OFFER

BK291558 Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 23 Dec 81 p 8

[Editorial: "Response to Pakistan"]

[Text] New Delhi seems at last to have realized that there is nothing to be gained by avoiding or further delaying a formal reply to the Pakistani proposal for talks on a no-war pact. Mrs Gandhi's government has already lost a great deal not only in diplomacy but also at home: Its apparent ambivalence towards Islamabad's "offer" has been widely seen as a sign of reluctance to improve its relations with Pakistan. What may have done greater harm is an impression of bewildered, almost nervous, indecision created by a series of tentative and uncoordinated official pronouncements. The Pakistani proposal was made known as early as September 15; even if it was correctly seen as a propaganda move, the right answer would have been a clear statement approving of the idea, while pointing out all that Islamabad had done to subvert it so as to call General Ziaul Haq's bluff. Instead, New Delhi seemed to be unnecessarily on the defensive in its repeated plea that it could not define its response in the absence of a formal communication. Its posture remained equally defensive even after the Pakistani proposal was officially communicated a month ago. Past Indian proposals were elaborately recalled, but there was no unequivocal statement of New Delhi's willingness to discuss the Pakistani offer.

In fact, even after indicating that the Indian response would be "positive" New Delhi went on warning that the country must not be "duped," recalling Indian proposals which Pakistan had rejected in the past -- a record India could not forget.

Mr Narasimha Rao told Parliament last week that the Indian reaction was "cautious and positive" but it was still far more cautious, indeed skeptical, than positive. Two days later Mrs Gandhi said that India was prepared to have a no-war pact if Pakistan's intentions were clear. What Pakistan has in mind can be known for certain, perhaps to the satisfaction of all concerned, only in the course of detailed discussions on the Pakistani offer. The points New Delhi has made so far, and possibly several others, can be raised during the talks Islamabad has proposed. If Pakistan has much to explain, or answer for, it is all the more reason why India should agree to such talks. If it is feared that the talks themselves would create a false impression of Pakistan's peaceable intent, it may be argued that what Mrs Gandhi's government really fears is any possible doubt, both at home and abroad, about all that it has lately been saying about grave external threats.

VICE PRESIDENT CALLS FOR ASIAN COMMON MARKET

BK050530 Hong Kong AFP in English 1047 GMT 4 Jan 82

[Text] New Delhi, 4 Jan (AFP) -- India today called for a common Asian market for trade which could meet the needs of countries in the region without necessitating reliance on Western markets, or at least a common Southeast Asian market for trade.

Indian Vice President Mohammed Hidayatullah, speaking at the inauguration of an international world marketing congress here, urged that a common Asian market or at least a common Southeast Asian market for trade be set up.

Planning Minister S.B. Chavan, in a keynote address, called for expeditious steps to ensure an international economic environment encompassing finance, aid and trade that would promote both the interests of developing countries and ensure the prosperity of richer nations.

The 3-day congress, attended by about 600 delegates, was organised by the Indian Institute of Marketing and Management in collaboration with the Third World Foundation for Social and Economic Studies and the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, London.

Various Indian ministries concerned and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) are also associated with it.

OIL PRODUCTION INCREASED 55 PERCENT IN 1981

BK310939 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 31 Dec 81

[Text] A 55-percent increase in oil production has helped the country tide over the recurring shortage of petroleum products this year. This was revealed in a yearend review.

It says that the total production from the onshore and offshore fields went up from 9.39 million tons in 1980 to an estimated 14.56 million tons this year. In the coming year oil exploration will be resumed in Jaisalmer in Rajasthan. Offshore drilling will also be taken up in Godavari and Mahanadi basins. Drilling is already on in Tripura, West Bengal and Arunachal Pradesh.

Recent surveys suggest that the country's oil-bearing regions are much more extensive having greater potential than estimated earlier. Experts are of the opinion that prospects of oil strikes in the new year are bright.

HAQ ADDRESSES PAKISTANI AMBASSADORS CONFERENCE

BK031720 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 Jan 82

[Text] President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq today inaugurated the conference of Pakistani envoys in Islamabad. Speaking on the occasion, he stressed the need for such conferences and said that they fulfill three major objectives. First, such conferences provide an opportunity for the envoys to become aware of the government's policies, to review internal and external development and also to receive political and administrative guidance so that they can perform their duties more effectively. The second objective is to provide them an opportunity to share their valuable opinions on various issues and the third is to enable Pakistan's envoys to have direct contacts with the country so that they can gain a better idea of the developments and the conditions within the country.

The president emphasized that the conference was being held at a time when important developments at home and abroad were occupying the attention of the people. He said the country has stood up to external challenges in a manner that has won the applause and support of the international community.

He said: We have faced all problems successfully through our faith in the justness of our stand and our determination not to compromise on our sovereignty and independence.

The president said that Pakistan threatened no one and did not harbor hegemonistic ambitions against anyone. But, equally, neither will it yield to intimidation nor accept any interference in its choices as a free country.

The president said: In our foreign policy we have reflected our Islamic orientation and worked constantly to establish fraternal relations with the Muslim countries.

The president briefed the ambassadors on major developments, including ongoing contacts between Pakistan and India and the present efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement of the Afghan crisis. He informed them that the first session of the Federal Council, which will be held on 11 January, will focus on foreign policy. He emphasized the services which they can provide for the country's economic development, increased exports and cooperation with foreign countries in economic fields. He advised them always to be accessible to Pakistani nationals in the countries of their accreditation and to accord the highest priority to solving their problems. He also underlined the importance of protecting Pakistan's ideology and culture and ensuring that their missions function effectively and without any wast of funds or resources.

After the president's inaugural speech, Foreign Minister Agha Shahi delivered his speech and Secretary General for Foreign Affairs S. Shahnawaz issued a statement about Pakistan's foreign policy.

The conference will resume its deliberations tomorrow under the chairmanship of the president. Radio Pakistan's representative says that 40 Pakistani envoys accredited in Asia, Europe and other important areas are participating in the conference.

UAE PRESIDENT AL NUHAYYAN ARRIVES 2 JAN

BK021546 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 Jan 82

[Text] President of the UAE Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan arrived in Karachi from Abu Dhabi today. He was received at the airport by Sind Governor Lt Gen S.M. Abbasi, the UAE ambassador to Pakistan, Pakistan's ambassador to the UAE and high officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

TEHRAN REPORTS ON JORDANIAN PLEDGES TO BAHRAIN

LD041838 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Jan 82

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report from Beirut, following a visit by the Jordanian interior minister to Bahrain and Shah Husayn's announcement of support for the Bahraini regime against the so-called plots which are ascribed to the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Central News Unit, quoting informed sources in Beirut, reported that in the name of security for Bahrain, Shah Husayn is determined to station some of his forces in Bahrain.

It has been learned that this decision was taken during Shah Husayn's recent visit to the United States and that the Jordanian forces, which will be probably stationed in Bahrain or any other part of the Persian Gulf, will, in fact, be a part of the U.S. Rapid Deployment Forces whose main aims are the safeguarding of U.S. interests and the interests of its lackeys against the anger of Islamic nations and for suppressing Islamic movements in the region. It should be remembered that at the moment a large number of British and Jordanian officers occupy important security posts in the Persian Gulf sheykhdoms.

BAHRAINI FRONT CABLES AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

GF041639 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 4 Jan 82

[Text] The Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain has sent an emergency cable to Amnesty International requesting that it send a delegation to Manama to investigate what is happening in Bahraini jails. This appeal comes a week after the arrival in Bahrain of a special torture team from Iraqi Ba'th jails. The cable says that 15 elements of the special torture team have arrived in Bahrain 7 days ago in order to supervise the torturing of more than 1,500 believers of the people's children who were detained recently. Ten persons were taken to the military hospital in Rifa' for treatment because of torture. It is worth mentioning that the ruling authorities in Bahrain had detained scores of Bahrain's sons in less than a week.

IRAQI APPEAL TO ARAB COUNTRIES ATTACKED

LD041154 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Jan 82

[Excerpts] According to reports, the Iraqi regime has officially asked Arab countries to close down Iran's embassies in their countries and expel Iranian diplomats because Iranian embassies in these countries have become centers of terrorism. Political sources consider this announcement by the Baghdad regime, at a time when Saddam's regime is beginning to be isolated in the Arab world, as a new trick and ploy adopted by the Iraqi regime to divert Arab countries, especially the reactionary countries, against Iran, thus directing their attention toward Iran. In this connection, the deputy to the minister of foreign affairs has made some remarks which we will now hear:

[Begin recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Usually, after each victory gained by the combatants of Islam against Saddam's mercenary army, these conspiracies are hatched -- on the face of it by Saddam's regime but in reality by other agents of American imperialism in the region. This new claim, as you see, was announced right after the victory gained by our combatants inside Iraqi territory in the Tavilah and Biarreh regions. The ultimate objective is to isolate and put pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Specifically, it provides a pretext for increasing the presence of America and its mercenaries in the region, based on the contention that Iran is interfering in the region and is endangering the security of the region by its acts. What America might eventually gain, will be to make other unaware countries participate in measures against Iran, endangering Iran's future relations with these countries once this war concludes with Iran's victory.

This claim is made by Iraq, whose terrorist activities all over the world during the past few years have been quite obvious and frequent. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in its previous statements, has divulged and elaborated on these activities following the incident in New Delhi a few months ago.

We are sure that those countries which have understood the message of the combative forces of the Islamic Republic against Saddam's forces and are willing to have relations on a logical basis with the Islamic Republic, will not fall into Saddam's trap and will not participate in this plot and trick against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

What is certain is that final victory will belong to our combatants. [end recording]

IRAQI MUJAHIDIN BLAST ARMY HEADQUARTERS

GF021319 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 Jan 82

[Text] In a heroic operation carried out by a group of Iraqi mujahidin on the anniversary of the death of the prophet, the general headquarters of the so-called Popular Army Command in Al-Harithiyah region in Baghdad was completely destroyed.

An Iraqi mujahidin communique on the operation said a group of its members destroyed [words indistinct] when the group's commander, in a car loaded with highly explosive materials, stormed the building housing the general headquarters of the Popular Army Command in Al-Harithiyah, Baghdad.

The communique added that the explosion resulted in the killing or wounding of more than 200 criminals, including senior Popular Army commanders, and the complete destruction of the headquarters building.

IRAQI MUJAHIDIN BLOW UP PIPELINE, TANKER

GF050510 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 5 Jan 82

[Text] The Iraqi mujahidin movement has claimed responsibility for blowing up an Iraqi oil pipeline.

The movement has announced that the martyr 'Ali Mardan Husayn group acted on orders from the movement's military office and planted explosives under the Iraqi oil pipeline in the Tall 'Abbas region, which is 28 km from Tripoli, on 3 January. The explosion destroyed the pipeline, and the Iraqi oil pumped through it from Karkuk was stopped. Oil pumping was resumed only 11 days ago. This particular station receives 400,000 barrels of crude oil daily.

The martyr Abu 'Ali at-Turkumani group, which is part of the Iraqi mujahidin movement, fired six rockets at a Lebanese tanker that was carrying Iraqi oil to the imperialist states. The ship was carrying 20,000 barrels of oil and burst into flames when hit by the rockets.

Both groups returned safely to base.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 750

LD051750 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Jan 82

[Communique 750 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. With thanks and commendation to all combatants of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, particularly the victorious combatants on the Nowsud front, who, by their successful operations, earned yet another honor for our Islamic homeland, Iran, and who, in the "Muhammad, Messenger of God" operations, were able to kill or injure approximately 1,000 Iraqi troops, and also to our victorious combatants who, in these operations, pounded enemy formations and defense positions and delivered crushing blows against the enemy, the following losses and casualties inflicted upon the enemy are announced:

Approximately 50 trucks, 1 Katyusha, 3 RPG's, 4 guns equipped with telescopic sights, 6 mortars, 20 radio-telephone sets, 1 truckload of troops and a substantial quantity of light and heavy equipment were destroyed. The number of Iraqis taken prisoner has now risen to 132.

On the Tabarchin front, the combatants of the ground forces fired on enemy positions, inflicting substantial losses and casualties on the enemy.

Yesterday, exchanges of fire continued sporadically on most of the western fronts. Gunfire was heavy on the Meymak front.

On the Gilan-e Gharb, Sar-e Pol-e Zahab and Sumar fronts, enemy losses and casualties amounted to one tank, two 82-mm motars, nine trenches, one trailer and one ammunition dump destroyed. In these operations, a number of the aggressive Iraqi troops were killed or wounded.

On 2 January, the combatants of the ground forces, executing artillery fire on enemy positions on the Gilan-e Gharb front, put four tanks out of actions and set ablaze and destroyed four trenches, one ammunition dump, one observation post and one antiaircraft gun belonging to the Saddamists. There is no information regarding Saddamist forces killed or wounded on this front.

Battles continued on the fronts west of Dezful with exchanges of fire between our forces and the enemy.

On the Susangerd and Bostan fronts, the self-sacificers of the armed forces, while strengthening their defensive positions and guarding the areas under their protection, returned enemy fire and struck effective blows at the enemy. On the Abadan and Khuninshahr fronts, battle continues with exchanges of fire.

Also, on 2 January eight selfless combatants of the Ground Forces and two of the self-sacrificers of the Gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic of Iran achieved the lofty status of martyrdom. May their name remain dear and their way lasting.

IRANIAN FORCES CLASH WITH KURDISH REBELS

LD021958 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Jan 82

[Text] The Public Relations Office of the Revolution Guards Corps has announced that following a raid by elements of illegal armed minigroups of the [Kurdish] Democratic Party and Komeleh on the martyr Jangali post, in Hamzehabad, which was countered by the army, the Revolution Guards Corps and the Muslim tribes of the region, at least 15 counterrevolutionaries were either killed or wounded.

In another clash on 31 December between a reconnaisance group, comprising members of the revolution guards, army and Muslim tribes of the region, and agents associated with illegal armed minigroups, which occurred on the heights overlooking (Haji Mamiyan) in Mahabad, the counterrevolutionaries were forced to flee, leaving at least 10 killed or wounded agents.

Following heavy fire by the Revolution Guards Corps in the same area, one 50-calibre machinegun emplacement belonging to the world oppressors' rebels was destroyed with all its personnel and ammunition, and some of the rebels were killed.

KURDISH GROUP LEADER, MEMBERS KILLED

LD041724 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Jan 82

[Summary] According to IRNA [formerly PARS] reports from Nowsud fronts, mercenaries of the defunct [Kurdish] Democratic Party carried out nuisance [iza'i] operations in Sheykhan village near Nowsud. They were forced to flee, leaving behind a large number of dead and seven captives.

Kok Towfiq, commander of the democrats in the west of Nowsud, was among the dead.

GUARDS KILL, ARREST 'HYPOCRITES' IN TEHRAN

GF041240 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Jan 82

[Text] According to a report issued by the Central News Unit, the Public Relations Office of the central headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps announced today that with the cooperation of the 36-million-strong intelligence organization and due to the efforts of brother members of the Tehran Police Department and Guards Corps, two members of the military branch of the hypocrites [words indistinct] have been killed in a clash in the 'Abbas Abad area, in the vicinity of Sahid Beheshti Avenue.

During the past week, 26 members and active supporters of the (?reactionary hypocrites organization) and [words indistinct] have been recognized and arrested by brother guards in (?Tehran). In the past 2 weeks, 12 members and supporters of the Rah-e Kargar minigroup have been arrested in Tehran and Karaj. One printing office belonging to the same minigroup has been seized by the forces of the Islamic revolution. A quantity of important inter-organizational documents belonging to this group have been discovered.

Furthermore, in the past few days 12 members of the [word indistinct] the U.S. Peykar organizations have been arrested and 1 of their printing offices -- used for printing their interorganizational documents -- has fallen into the hands of brother guards. Hundreds of books and Peykar interorganizational documents, (?which show the shortcomings of and disorder within the organization of the filthy leftovers of the arch-Satan), were discovered in this den of iniquity.

In the cities of Rasht and Bandar-e Anzali, 19 members of the same organization have been captured by brother guards in the past few days. A quantity of interorganizational documents have been confiscated. During the same period, 25 very important members of the Peykar minigroup have been arrested in Mashhad, and a large printing workshop and some important interorganizational documents have been discovered there.

ARDABILI DENIES BAHAI SECT LEADERS EXECUTED

NC031036 Paris AFP in English 1020 GMT 3 Jan 82

[Text] Tehran, 3 Jan (AFP) -- Iranian Supreme Court President Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili today denied that eight leaders of the Bahai sect had been executed in Tehran a week ago.

The judge told a press conference that authorities had learnt of the allegations "through the press" and "if the information was recent" it was totally without foundation.

"During 1358 (1979) we received complaints about one or two Bahai. But our inquiries shed no light", the ayatollah said, adding that the Bahai "appeared to have been eliminated by opponents".

The judge was referring to a charge made last week in Brussels by Bahai sect representatives that eight of their leaders had been executed in Tehran's Evin Prison last Sunday, December 27.

VOA REPORT ON COMMUNIST INFLUENCE REBUTTED

LD032208 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 3 Jan 82

[Text] The Voice of America radio in its program "We and You" on 31 December 1981 claimed that the hammer-and-sickle sign can be seen in all the publications of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The radio further claimed that Iran today is, in fact, being run by communists and that the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps is comprised of Soviet spies in the region.

The Voice of America radio declared in defense of the hypocrites organization: All the explosions and bomb-planting incidents that have taken place in Iran are the work of the Islamic institutions themselves.

The Voice of America says at one point in the program: We expected the Iranians to arise from their ignorant slumber, and we hoped that the Iranians residing abroad would set aside their differences and rush to the help of their compatriots because the black reaction is delivering them with tied hands to red reaction.

Political observers believe that American imperialism, through extensive propaganda, is trying to make out that Eastern-oriented groups have gained strength so that, in the name of a struggle against communism, it can go into action against the Iranian Islamic revolution, and some domestic political groups are also working to achieve this international imperialist goal in accordance with a scheduled plan.

NVOI SCORES IRANIAN POLICY TOWARD AFGHANISTAN

TA041152 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 2 Jan 82

[Unattributed commentary: "Confronting the Afghan Problem From the Position of the Ziaul Haqs and the Saudis Cannot Have the Endorsement of Our Nation"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: Following the dismissal of Bani-Sadr and his American and Maoist followers from government organizations, certain measures have been carried out in our country's foreign policy in the direction of the Iranian revolution's popular and anti-imperialist line. Naturally, these measures by the government have the approval of the Iranian people. However, with deep regret we note that in some instances numerous traces and signs of mental prejudice, intimations of the compromising liberals and superficiality are seen in the government's measures.

As an example, the Islamic government's approach toward the murdering and fugitive bands of Afghans residing in our country in general, and the government's attitude toward revolutionary Afghanistan in particular, is an indication of such an incorrect attitude. The recent statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with respect to the Afghan problem and the granting of permission for demonstrations to a group of monarchist Afghan bands in Tehran are among measures that certainly do not conform with the general anti-imperialist and anti-American policy of the Islamic government.

With deep regret, the statement of our country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs contains certain topics that Zionist and imperialist broadcasting stations are precisely beaming day and night to divert public opinion, and it was not accidental that imperialist media published the contents of this statement with a lot of relish. Today both friends and foe acknowledge that there no longer exists a so-called Afghan problem as portrayed by Western propaganda organizations. A national and democratic government has assumed control of affairs in Afghanistan, and enjoys the backing and support of the people, including the militant clergy of that country.

Afghanistan's emancipated and Muslim people have taken up arms and are defending their revolutionary gains, freedom and democracy and the land which the revolutionary government has placed at the disposal of the oppressed farmers by implementing land reform against foreign and imperialist plots and aggressions and against certain bands formed by the United States and China and propped up by the regimes of Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Oman. It is these fugitive Afghan bands that attack Afghanistan from abroad, from Pakistan and, unfortunately, from our country. Under the pretext of defending Islam, they massacre women, children, the old and the young, destroy villages, set fire to cattle and the produce of farmers, blow up mosques, and in many instances even kill the militant clergy while they are leading prayers.

Our homeland's people themselves are witness to and can testify to the inhuman acts, robbery, smuggling of drugs, weapons and currency, and immoral deeds, and especially the cooperation of the Afghan bands residing in our country with the internal counter-revolutionaries in plots and subversion against the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The great satanic world-devouring America, Beijing's Maoist hegemonists, and the subservient regimes of Pakistan, Oman and Saudi Arabia are the backers and supporters of these professional killers; this is not accidental, for the victory of the revolution in Afghanistan has placed that country in the ranks of governments of the steadfastness front, and has foiled the satanic plans of the United States and its allies.

Under these conditions, the approach which the Islamic government has adopted toward these murdering bands, and which is in fact contrary to the declared foreign policy principles of the Islamic Republic, not only cannot be endorsed by our homeland's people but in many cases arouses their concern as well.

Support for the murdering, fugitive Afghan bands, under any name or pretext, is beneath the dignity of the revolutionary system of our Islamic Republic. The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan is an emancipated and independent country.

Progressive mankind looks with admiration at the progressive, democratic and popular transformations that have taken place and are taking place in this Islamic country. In practice, democratic Afghanistan is the natural ally of liberated Iran in the struggle against world-devouring America. As we have observed through experience, the government of this country has repeatedly extended the hand of friendship toward our country and has proposed the holding of bilateral talks for resolving outstanding issues.

The fact that the imperialists and regional reactionaries are muddying the water and not allowing the Afghan problem to be settled is something that can be understood. However, the fact that our country's officials, particularly on this issue, actually have certain positions similar to the positions of Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and their American masters, is something that cannot have the endorsement of the Iranian people. The people expect a realistic approach to be adopted toward the Afghan problem. The application of such a policy is both to the benefit of the Iranian revolution and to the creation of mutual understanding between the two countries.

SOVIET MUNITIONS DUMP IN KABUL BLOWN UP

GF311751 Tehran International Service in Urdu 1415 GMT 31 Dec 81

[Text] An explosion rocked a Soviet munitions dump in Kabul this week on the eve of the beginning of the third year of Soviet presence in Afghanistan. The explosion was so severe that it was heard throughout Kabul.

According to another report, mujahidin have killed a high-ranking Afghan Planning Ministry official. Afghan Prime Minister Keshtmand recently admitted the damage Afghan mujahidin have inflicted upon the Afghan economy. He noted that direct Soviet aid to the Afghan Government has reached about $100 million.

The number of Soviet troops in Afghanistan and Soviet assistance to the Karmal administration have reached such levels that even Soviet leader Brezhnev recently stated his dislike of interference in the affairs of other countries. [sentence as heard]

SOVIET MIG'S, HELICOPTERS BOMB AFGHAN VILLAGE

GF030645 Tehran IRNA in English 1720 GMT 2 Jan 82

[Text] Tehran, 2 Jan (IRNA) -- Two Soviet MiG's and 8 helicopter gunships bombed the Jebrail region in Herat Province, Afghanistan, last week, reliable sources reported from Khorasan.

Due to the 4-hour bombardment, a village in the area was completely devastated. The report also indicated that a number of Herat garrison units have been relocated in another place [words indistinct] taken positions against the Soviet-backed Kabul regime.

Raid on Qandahar

LD041945 Tehran IRNA in English 1848 GMT 4 Jan 82

[Text] Islamabad, 4 Jan (IRNA) -- The city of Qandahar was bombarded by Soviet airplanes once again following the recent killing of 300 soldiers of the Afghani regime and the destruction of 11 tanks.

Following the seige of Qandahar by Muslim mujahidin and government forces of Afghanistan, clashes broke out between the two sides, in which some 300 government soldiers were killed and 11 of its tanks were destroyed.

Following these clashes, Soviet airplanes and helicopters bombarded the city's suburbs. There were no reports on the inflicted casualties caused by the air raid.

AFGHAN REBELS REPORTEDLY KILL SOVIET TROOPS

LD051044 Tehran IRNA in English 0925 GMT 5 Jan 82

[Text] Tehran, 5 Jan (IRNA) -- More than 20 Soviet Government forces were killed during 3-day severe clashes [which] occurred last week between Muslim Afghan combatants and the Soviet occupier forces in Jamal Qazi region, western Afghanistan.

The Afghan combatants also destroyed 6 enemy tanks and personnel carriers.

TEHRAN WARNS AFGHANS AGAINST IMPERIALISM

GF010928 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1830 GMT 30 Dec 81

[Unattributed commentary: "Is It a Coup or a Revolution in Afghanistan?"]

[Summary] The question of Afghanistan is a serious issue to Third World countries. Large masses of Afghans have fled their homeland to neighboring countries because of the Soviet intervention there, which has created a de facto situation, of which the United States and its collaborators have been motivated to take advantage to achieve certain gains for themselves.

The world's people are astonished over the pretext the Soviet Union has put forward for its intervention in Afghanistan -- that is, the security of its southern border can only be guaranteed if Afghanistan's security is maintained. In an attempt to convince the world that its forces are in Afghanistan at the request of the Afghan Government, the Soviet Union has claimed that its presence in Afghanistan is aimed at safeguarding the Afghan people against a possible intervention by world imperialism led by the United States.

However, the following question runs through the minds of everyone: What kind of a defensive action is this to have caused the death and wounding of thousands of Afghans? It should not be forgotten that millions of Afghans have sought asylum in neighboring countries. It is because of all of this that the Afghanistan question is a serious issue to Third World countries.

The Islamic culture in Afghanistan provides the only continuity and hope for the Afghan people. The Islamic culture is the uniting factor in Afghanistan.

Oppressors are prepared to commit any kind of crime to crush the people's opposition. They are even prepared to align themselves with the superpowers. The Afghan Government is an example. It has yielded to all of the demands of Soviet imperialism.

However, the Afghan masses are prepared to stage a revolution in the future to maintain and safeguard their morality. The success of their revolution will depend on their sacrifices. Yes, the Afghan people have to give the necessary reply to the Afghan Government and the Soviet Union. The Afghan mujahidin have to realize the importance of the situation in Afghanistan today. They have to realize that they should not fall prey to Western imperialism while struggling against the Afghan Government and Soviet troops in Afghanistan.

BRIEFS

WHEAT SUPPLIES -- The head of the country's grain organization announced in a radio and television interview that since the beginning of the new year [21 March], approximately 870,000 tons of wheat have been purchased from farmers. Referring to the unprecedented increase in wheat sowing in the current year and the canceling of certain agreements for the purchase of wheat from abroad, he said: So far an additional 50,000 tons of wheat have been earmarked for the rural areas and the country's poor regions, and in this connection 4 billion rials have been spent. He added: Approximately 36,750 tons of wheat have also been earmarked for our war-stricken compatriots and the tribes in Bushehr and Kermanshah. While emphasizing the uniformity in the price of wheat throughout the country, the head of the country's grain organization said: The government is annually paying a bread subsidy of some 47 billion rials so that bread can be placed at the disposal of the consumer at a low price. He called on our compatriots to refrain from wasting bread. [Excerpt] [Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Dec 81 LD]

MEAT IMPORTS -- Tehran, 26 Dec (PARS) -- The managing director of the state meat company, Mehdi Behravani, told PARS today that representatives from the Islamic Republic of Iran in the world markets review issues related to prices and proper slaughtering of meat meant for sale to Iran. This has proved, he said, that our active presence in the meat markets can decrease the price by 60 percent. The managing director added: "We have decided to purchase low-cost and good-tasting meat from various markets to transport to the country by refrigerator ships. We are thinking about bartering oil for meat. So far several Western companies have announced their interest in such transactions and we have received twice as many proposals as we need. However, the director stressed that even with its import program the main objective of the meat company remains to support internal livestock product production and to decrease imports of meat. [Excerpt] [Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1843 GMT 27 Dec 81 LD]